

# City of Mountain View

## Rengstorff Park Master Plan

Project 09-24

Community Forum#2  
September 24, 2010

SERVICE + ENVIRONMENT = EXPERIENCE

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# Rengstorff Park Master Plan

- ❑ Park opened in 1959, Community Center in 1964, Avenidas, Senior Center and Childcare Center in 2005, 2006, and 2008 respectively. Acquired Rock Church property in 2009.
- ❑ Regional Park (Shoreline), 2 Community Parks (Cuesta and Rengstorff), 13 Neighborhood Parks, 19 Mini-Parks
  - Community Parks serve the entire City
  - They have a diversity of environments and provide quality areas for outdoor recreation
- ❑ A Master Plan is a General Guide for Development of an Area
- ❑ The Rengstorff Park Master Plan will:
  - Create a Long-Term Vision of the Park
  - Keep Rengstorff Park a Safe and Enjoyable Place and Experience
  - Facilitate Informed Decision Making



# AGENDA

- ☐ Introduction
  - ☐ Master Plan Process
  - ☐ Design Considerations
  - ☐ Park Overview
  - ☐ Community Input
  - ☐ Next Steps
  - ☐ Feedback
- 
- ☐ Meeting Outcomes
    - Review of the Master Plan Process & Participants
    - Collect Community Input on Park Experiences
    - Discuss Park Features
    - Future Opportunities for Community Input



# Master Plan Process

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# Steps for the Master Plan Process

Consider:

- ☐ ***Park Inventory*** for Existing Park Elements
- ☐ ***Joint-Use Buildings***
- ☐ ***Vehicle and Pedestrian Access***
- ☐ Possibility of Incorporating ***Crisanto Avenue*** into the Park
- ☐ ***Prioritize*** Park Improvements
- ☐ ***Rock Church Property*** at 263 Escuela



# Next Steps

- ☐ Discuss Operational Scenarios with Staff
- ☐ City Council Meeting
- ☐ Develop (4) Master Plan Scenarios
- ☐ Community Forum
- ☐ Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- ☐ Final Master Plan



# Design Considerations



# Park Overview

Park Inventory  
Site Analysis

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# Park Inventory




- ☐ Well Maintained
- ☐ Functioning as Intended
- ☐ Highly Used Community Asset
- ☐ Many Areas Are Recently Renovated
- ☐ Wide Variety of Recreation Opportunities



# Site Analysis – Spaces & Uses



## LEGEND

- PARK BOUNDARY
- SPORTS
- GROUP ACTIVITIES
- PLAYGROUNDS
- SKATE PARK
- STAGE & AMPHITHEATRE
- PLAZA
- PARKING/VEHICULAR
- PASSIVE GREEN
- OPEN GREEN
-  PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
-  VEHICULAR ACCESS
-  BUS STOP



PARKS MAKE LIFE BETTER



# Site Analysis – Tree Status



## LEGEND

- - - PARK BOUNDARY
- HERITAGE TREES
- TREES IDENTIFIED FOR FURTHER STUDY
- ALL OTHER TREES

NOTE:  
COMPLETE TREE ANALYSIS PENDING FINAL  
ARBORIST REPORT.



PARKS MAKE LIFE BETTER



# Community Input



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# Park Experience Exercise

- ☐ Interview Your Neighbor – *15 minutes*
  - What works well in the park? What doesn't?
  - Describe your ideal experience of the park 10 years from now.
- ☐ Large Group Discussion – *30 minutes*



# Existing Park Elements

- Aquatics Center
- Community Center
- Childcare Center
- Senior Center
- Avenidas Senior Day Health Center
- Teen Center
- Ranger Building
- Tennis Building
- Swimming Pool
- Skate Park
- Barbeque/Picnic Areas
- Tot Lots/Playgrounds
- Exercise Equipment
- Tennis Courts
- Handball Courts
- Pavilion
- Fire Circle
- Off Leash Dog Training Area
- Open Lawn Area



# Park Experience Exercise Feedback

## Large Group Discussion

- ☐ Picnic Area is very popular and the tables are used all the time
- ☐ Park headquarters and use of the buildings for voting and dancing are very popular
- ☐ Teen Center didn't succeed until the teens were involved in the program
- ☐ Get the teens involved in the planning of the Rock Church area
  - Multi-age facility
  - Teens using the facility after school
  - Mothers and children using the space during the day
- ☐ The great lawn and promenade and trees are great centerpieces of the park - be sure to preserve these
- ☐ Green area is liked
- ☐ Visit the park everyday for the children play and be very active
- ☐ Like the park but needs more bathrooms



# Park Experience Exercise Feedback

## Large Group Discussion

- ☐ Really like the park, but there is not enough lighting in the evening. It is too dark and people have safety concerns.
- ☐ Encourage more attention to the bathrooms. They are not in good shape and need more maintenance.
- ☐ More security and lighting is needed. There are groups of people in the park that are not friendly to families.
- ☐ Community dance classes are impacted by other schools and organizations using dedicated dance rooms with mirrors.
- ☐ Parking at Rock Church and walking over to Park/Senior Center area is difficult. More accessible parking is needed for the park. There is not enough parking during events.
- ☐ Love that this is a multi-use park with activities happening all the time
- ☐ Additional storage is needed at tennis courts and throughout the park. None of the facilities have enough storage:
  - Tennis building is very small. Bathroom facilities are limited and locker rooms are no longer accessible to the public.
  - Classes and Programs in the Senior Center don't have enough storage.
- ☐ The original buildings on the site are underutilized.
- ☐ Maintain the green areas and sports areas in the park. These are highly used by children and adults.
- ☐ Counseling areas are needed in the Senior Center.



# Park Experience Exercise Feedback

## Large Group Discussion

- ☐ There is great varied and heavy use of the park.
- ☐ Open space is used for sports and ball fields.
- ☐ Existing Community Center building is a good asset as it is. It should not be changed at all.
- ☐ Redwood grove is an asset to the park. It should be maintained and preserved. It is a nice quiet place.
- ☐ Walking space is limited and impacted by other uses in the park.
- ☐ Senior population is going to increase in the coming years. The Senior Center needs to be larger to accommodate this growth, particularly the Technology Center in the Senior Center.
- ☐ Outdoor stage does not work well. It is currently only used for dog training. It would be nice to see this area used for music in the park, ethnic dances, and other community arts events.
- ☐ Park user for the past 10 years has been walking the park every morning. She enjoys the new exercise area for the adults.
- ☐ A dedicated children's exercise area would be great. It would be a means to motivate them to be healthy and exercise as well as educating them on the importance of being active.



# Park Experience Exercise Feedback

## Large Group Discussion

- ☐ Trees near the BBQ and picnic area should be removed to increase visibility into the area. Palm trees would be preferred to make the area feel happier. There are concern that someone may be hurt by the existing trees.
- ☐ Competitive swimmer noted that the area has greatly out grown its pool facilities. Rengstorff Park offers the opportunity to put in a modern facility for the community. The current pool is 50 years old. There is space to expand into an Olympic sized facility without much impact to the rest of park.
- ☐ Park users would like to see:
  - More public art and sculpture
  - More native plants
  - More separation between sports areas and other uses
  - Creation of more quiet spaces in the park
- ☐ Access to the park is dangerous for pedestrians and bicycles.
- ☐ Not enough parking



# Park Experience Exercise Feedback

## Large Group Discussion

- ☐ The park is not safe at night. Lighting and police patrols may help.
- ☐ There are no good walking paths in the park. There is a small area by the redwood tree grove. Would prefer to have a walking area similar to Palo Alto and Shoreline Parks.
- ☐ There are too many buildings in the park. It needs to feel more like a park.
- ☐ Multistory building in the park wouldn't work.
- ☐ Playground should be bigger for the kids.
- ☐ A play area with water for the kids would be great.
- ☐ Bigger bathrooms with larger trash bins are needed.
- ☐ Provide lots of green quiet space.
- ☐ Homeowner near the Rock Church property would like designers to consider the neighbors adjacent to this property when thinking of noise and light planned for this area. She would like a Zen garden in this space.



# Prioritizing the Park Features

Trends in Park Design  
Park Features Exercise

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# Trends in Park Design

## ❑ Community Space

- Accessible and Appealing to Wide Range of Users
- Respond to Community Needs and Recreation Trends
- Outdoor Public Art
- Space for Performing Arts
- Home for Community Events



## ❑ Connectivity

- Integrated with Surrounding Context
- Supportive of Public Transit
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Oriented



# Trends in Park Design

## ☐ Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

- Demonstration Gardens
- Water Conservation
- On-Site Water Treatment
- Sustainable Materials

## ☐ Back to Nature

- Native Plant Species
- Natural Planting Areas



# Trends in Park Design

## ❑ Diverse Recreation Opportunities

- Spray Grounds
- Wading Pools
- Rock Climbing
- Skate Parks
- Exercise Stations
- Walking/ Jogging Paths



# Park Features Exercise

## ☐ Image Dot Exercise – *15 minutes*

- Activities
- Features
- Environments
- Character

## ☐ Small Group Discussion – *20 minutes*

- Image Discussion
- Why does this image represent Rengstorff Park?

## ☐ Large Group Discussion – *20 minutes*

- Open to all Comments and Suggestions
- Please be Respectful of Other's Opinions



# Park Features Exercise Feedback

## Large Group Discussion – Group 1

- ☐ A place where people can walk without worrying about conflicts of activities
- ☐ A colorful peaceful, retreat
- ☐ Solitude, serene and peaceful
- ☐ Colorful and inviting atmosphere for the park
- ☐ Able to sit comfortably in the park with a place for trash
- ☐ Having a Teen Center is important
- ☐ Plaza that is connected to the history of mountain view
- ☐ Lots of plants and space for people who want to use the park
- ☐ Lots of trees and low maintenance planting
- ☐ Public Art is important, possibly interactive art similar to Seal Point Park in San Mateo
- ☐ More parking is needed, especially during events
- ☐ Improve access to the park for pedestrians and bikes. Current access is dangerous and needs to be improved, especially across the railroad tracks.
- ☐ Better public transit to the park
- ☐ Water feature could be a nice feature, but could be wasteful of resources
- ☐ Community garden would be nice to get kids involved in gardening and growing things
- ☐ Keep and improve the skate park
- ☐ More activities for the youth



# Park Features Exercise Feedback

## Large Group Discussion – Group 2

- ☐ Skate park should be BMX friendly. Its current location is good.
- ☐ Spray ground would be nice for kids to play in.
- ☐ Teen Center is important. This age group needs its own space.
- ☐ Pool and water feature could be grand element in the park.  
Water is a key element for the park.
- ☐ The park is heavily used and it needs to double in size.
- ☐ Seating is important adjacent to walking paths
- ☐ Balance the natural feel with the functionality of the park. The park should have lots of play areas and inviting activities.
- ☐ The natural, informal lawn space is nice
- ☐ Organic character is nice and emphasizes the living green space the park is
- ☐ Open, multi-use areas are important
- ☐ Functional gardens are important
- ☐ Sculpture could be interactive



# Park Features Exercise Feedback

## Large Group Discussion – Group 3

- ☐ Teen Center is important and could be a multiuse area with Teen 'ownership' of the space.
- ☐ Pool facilities needs to be bigger (therapy pool, swimming, spray ground, etc).
- ☐ Informal sports are important (basketball, volleyball, etc)
- ☐ A soft surface walking track that is shaded would be nice
- ☐ Large and small community events are important in the park (picnics, etc)
- ☐ The park should have a 'green heart' with open and free use spaces
- ☐ Relax and enjoy the park
- ☐ Like the existing architectural style at Senior Center
- ☐ New buildings need to consider acoustical impacts to adjacent park uses and park neighbors
- ☐ Community events and performing arts should have a home in the park (music, festivals, art exhibits, etc.)
- ☐ Park should have healing spaces and quiet sitting area - a Zen garden concept.
- ☐ Rock Church property should balance quiet spaces and activities with respect to the neighbors.
- ☐ Would like to explore the possibility of closing Escuela Avenue between Senior Center and Rock Church to allow for greater, safer access between the two properties.
- ☐ Activities are important to this community and the park is the home for activities for this community.
- ☐ Use trees within the park to make spaces and bring nature alive
- ☐ Green lawn and trees
- ☐ Traditions of events in the park to build community
- ☐ Promote interactivity of cultures and communities
- ☐ Sustainability is important
- ☐ More parking is needed



# Park Features Exercise Feedback

## Large Group Discussion – Group 4

- ☐ Park should be an escape from everyday life – an oasis in the City
- ☐ A soft surface track in a loop would be ideal to create a walkable loop in the park.
- ☐ Garden space should be provided for the entire community. It could be used as a teaching tool for the children as well as providing homegrown produce for those in neighboring apartments without yard space.
- ☐ Spraygrounds are a great way to bring the community together and they are well liked by the kids.
- ☐ More green space and less buildings
- ☐ Existing park has many safety and lighting concerns. New design should not create unsafe niches and areas that are not well lit
- ☐ Rock Church should be used as a multi-use, multi-generational space for community exercise, workshops, and classes
- ☐ A place for toys and remote control cars should be planned for in the park



# Park Features Exercise Feedback

## Large Group Discussion – Group 5

- ☐ Movie watching the park, especially for families would be a great feature
- ☐ Water feature should be functional for kids and older adults. Explore the possibility of it being a lighting element in the off seasons to be a year-round public art element.
- ☐ Exercise space is needed for a large group to use together
- ☐ Improve the skate park with safer ramps and make it more unique
- ☐ Gardening is important and should be reflected in the new park
- ☐ Path system should be better organized and be edged with nice planting
- ☐ Green space should look out on colorful, well planted zones
- ☐ Park should provided quiet, tranquil spaces to get away from the streets and city
- ☐ Better lighting is needed in the park
- ☐ Rock Church should be a teen center for high school students. The current Teen Center is only for middle school students. High school kids need a space that is off the streets to relax and feel comfortable.
- ☐ Connection between the park and Rock Church is important. Explore the possibility of a bridge between that to that makes the properties feel like one park without realizing your crossing the street .
- ☐ Use the Rock Church property for community events and classes
- ☐ Teen Center at Rock Church is important



## Next Steps and Feedback

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# Next Steps

## ☐ Next Steps

- Discuss Operational Scenarios with Staff
- City Council Meeting
- Develop (4) Master Plan Scenarios
- Community Forum
- Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- Final Master Plan



## ☐ Other Opportunities for Input

- Future Community Forum
- Future Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- Future City Council Meetings

## ☐ Contact Information

- Public Works Department  
[public.works@mountainview.gov](mailto:public.works@mountainview.gov)  
650-903-6311



# Feedback

- ☐ What has happened to the input that the community has given in the past?
  - Past input has been for the previous Master Plan for the Senior Center/ Childcare Center.
  - In 2009 there was a visioning session held at City Hall. This effort was a part of the General Plan update process.
- ☐ Visioning for Rengstorff Park and Rock Church property was noted in the City flyer. Liked that we adjusted the presentation from Wednesday's forum to Friday's forum to focus more on the Rock Church property in addition to the Park.
- ☐ Lot of young people in the apartments near by visit the park, but don't have anywhere to go. Would like there to be activities for people to participate in.
- ☐ Dry grass area near Cuesta needs to be addressed.



**Thank You!**